



Marc Elrich, County Executive  
Andrew Kleine, Chief Administrator Officer

Catherine Matthews, Director  
Kraig Walsleben, UCAB Chair

**February 7, 2019**

**Upcounty Quality of Life Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, February 11 7:00pm**  
**Kramer Upcounty Regional Services Center**  
**12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown**

***Topic: Cannabis Farming Trend in Montgomery County***  
***Guest: Jeremy Criss, Director, Office of Agricultural Services***

*All board and committee meetings are open to the public!*

Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If these or other services or aids are needed to participate in this activity, please call 240-777-8040 or email a request to [catherine.matthews@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:catherine.matthews@montgomerycountymd.gov).

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**Live Discussion with County Executive Marc Elrich**  
**Thursday, February 14 1:30pm-2:30pm**



County Executive Marc Elrich will hold a virtual town hall meeting that allows County residents to send questions or comments directly to the County Executive. Selected questions will be answered during the scheduled discussion time.

[Submit Your Question](#)

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***County Residents Encouraged to Attend and Bring Your Devices!***

**Balancing Act Interactive Budget Forum**  
**Monday, February 11 7:00pm - 8:30pm**  
**Executive Office Building, Cafeteria**  
**101 Monroe Street, Rockville**

The County's Office of Management and Budget will hold an interactive budget forum using a [budget simulator tool](#) called "**Balancing Act.**" Balancing Act is a Montgomery County-developed, interactive tool to increase public engagement with the FY20 budget process. This new online tool will allow the County leaders to have a better understanding of the funding priorities of County residents. It will also give our residents a chance to experience the tough decisions made each day to keep our government operating. Check out the tool at [montgomerycountymd.gov/budgetsimulator](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/budgetsimulator).

[Register for the event.](#)

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## Montgomery County Police Chief Manger to Retire

[Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger](#) announced that he will retire in April after 15 years of service in Montgomery County, the culmination of 42 years as a police officer. [Read the news release](#)

*Farewell Chief and thank you for your dedicated service to our Montgomery County community!*

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## Kickoff of Frank Islam Athenaeum Symposia Speaker Series Wednesday, February 13 11:00am Montgomery College – Germantown Campus Globe Hall in High Technology & Science Center 20200 Observation Drive, Germantown

Montgomery College invites you to the first event of the Spring 2019 Frank Islam Athenaeum Symposia Speakers Series. Keith Wilson will deliver a presentation titled, "Fieldnotes: Race, Love, and Violence in the Melting Pot."

Wilson will read poetry from his forthcoming collection, *Fieldnotes on Ordinary Love*, whose poems approach family, politics, and romance, often through the lens of space: the vagaries of a relationship full of wonder and coldness, separation and exploration. Inspired by Greco-Roman myth, Wilson writes through characters such as the Basilisk and the Minotaur, emphasizing the intense loneliness these characters experience from their uniqueness. From the fields of Kentucky to the pigeon coops of Chicago, identities and locations blur the pastoral bleeds into the Afrofuturist, black into white, and back again.

For information on the full series, please visit [www.montgomerycollege.edu/athenaeum](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/athenaeum)

To reserve space for classes or to request accommodations for an event, email [athenaeum@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:athenaeum@montgomerycollege.edu) or call 240-567-1845.

*This is a free event! Open to the general public!*

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## Nominations Sought for Montgomery Serves Awards

**[Submit nominations now for volunteers who have performed outstanding service in 2018!](#)** Montgomery County's Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes volunteers in four categories; individual, youth, group, and business. These awards honor some of our County's most outstanding community leaders and dedicated volunteers. Nominations are also sought for the Neal Potter Path of Achievement Award to recognize seniors with a lifetime of service.

***Deadline for submissions is February 28, 2019.***

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## Have You Heard of Opportunity Zones?

Yesterday, Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich talked about the opportunity to spur economic development in Montgomery County as he welcomed developers, investors and others to the [Opportunity Zone](#) Workshop and Tour at AFI Silver in Silver Spring. **The U.S. Treasury Department has approved 14 designated areas in Montgomery County for the nationwide Opportunity Zone program, which provides federal tax incentives to spur investment in underserved communities by attracting investment. These incentives can spur further economic development in the form of job creation and revitalization, providing new opportunities for business, housing, and retail growth.**

The program offers [three tax incentives](#) for capital gains that are reinvested into designated [census tracts](#), known as Opportunity Zones. Investors may defer paying taxes by investing in a qualified fund and receive increasing discounts on any capital gains taxes due on that money. If they leave their investment in the Opportunity Fund for 10 years, any new gains are free of capital gains taxes. Some of the 14 tracts in Montgomery County are located near the Metro's Red Line and the future Purple Line.

### Montgomery County Opportunity Zones -

See maps at [Opportunity Zone](#) (Zoom to see zones, dark green census tracts are Opportunity Zones.)

- Montgomery College's Germantown Campus
- Four census tracts in Gaithersburg
- Rockville Pike in-between Rockville Town Center and the Twinbrook Metro Station
- Downtown Wheaton
- Two census tracts in Downtown Silver Spring
- Two census tracts in White Oak
- Three census tracts in Long Branch along the future Purple Line

To learn more about the Opportunity Zones in Montgomery County, visit

<http://mcedcmd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=e7c51dca138b4d599e712ca64cf1ca19#>

For more information about Maryland's opportunity zones, visit the state's [website](#). ([www.maryland.gov](http://www.maryland.gov) and search "Maryland Opportunity Zones")

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## Does Your Business Need a Bike Rack for Employees?

The **Montgomery County Department of Transportation** will install one bicycle rack which provides for two bicycles upon request in Fiscal Year 2019. If your business is interested in requesting a bike rack complete the form [here](#). See the bike rack fact sheet [here](#) or visit <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/bikeways/request.html>

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## Department of Environmental Protection Storm Drain Art Contest Entries Accepted Through February 22

[https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press\\_Detail.aspx?Item\\_ID=22760](https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=22760)

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**Registration is Now Open for the County's Office of Human Rights  
Maryland Civil Rights Educational Freedom Experience  
April 6 – 14**

**Payment is due March 15.**

Registration is now open for the 2019 Maryland Civil Rights Educational Freedom Experience. This annual historic civil-rights bus tour retraces the Freedom Trail, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Greensboro sit-ins, voting rights, and other significant events of the Civil Rights Movement.

The nine-day bus tour will leave Rockville on April 6 and return on April 14. The tour will travel to Greensboro, NC; Atlanta, GA; Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma, AL; Memphis and Clinton, TN; Little Rock, AR and Jackson, MS to retrace the steps of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and many other civil-rights heroes.

This year, Joan Mulholland, a freedom rider from the Civil Rights Movement will join the tour. She will share her story and provide personal accounts at the various stops along the journey. She will also have copies of her book "She Stood for Freedom" available for participants.

The tour is hosted by the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, in collaboration with the Montgomery County Public Libraries, the African American Employees Association, the Lincoln Park Historical Foundation and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The tour is available to County and non-county residents.

For more information about the itinerary and sites that will be included, see the press release at [https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press\\_Detail.aspx?Item\\_ID=22752](https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=22752) or contact Beverly Marshall in the Office of Human Rights at [Beverly.marshall@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Beverly.marshall@montgomerycountymd.gov) or 240-777-8479.

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**County Council Approves Elrich Appointees Adam Ortiz as New Environmental Director and Diane Vu as New Director of the Office of Community Partnerships**

[https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press\\_Detail.aspx?Item\\_ID=22786](https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=22786)

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**For more News from the Office of the County Executive, visit:** <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/news>

*For other news and meeting agendas, visit:*

**County Council** <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council>

**Planning Board** [http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/department/news\\_releases](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/department/news_releases)

**Also check out the latest from:**

Department of Public Libraries <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library>

Department of Recreation <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec>

Department of Transportation <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/index.html>

Department of Environmental Protection <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep>

Department of Permitting Services <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dps>

Montgomery County Volunteer Center <http://www.montgomeryserves.org>

Office of Community Partnerships <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships>

Commission for Women <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw>

Parks Department <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/>

Planning Department <http://montgomeryplanning.org/>

Department of Health and Human Services [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs)